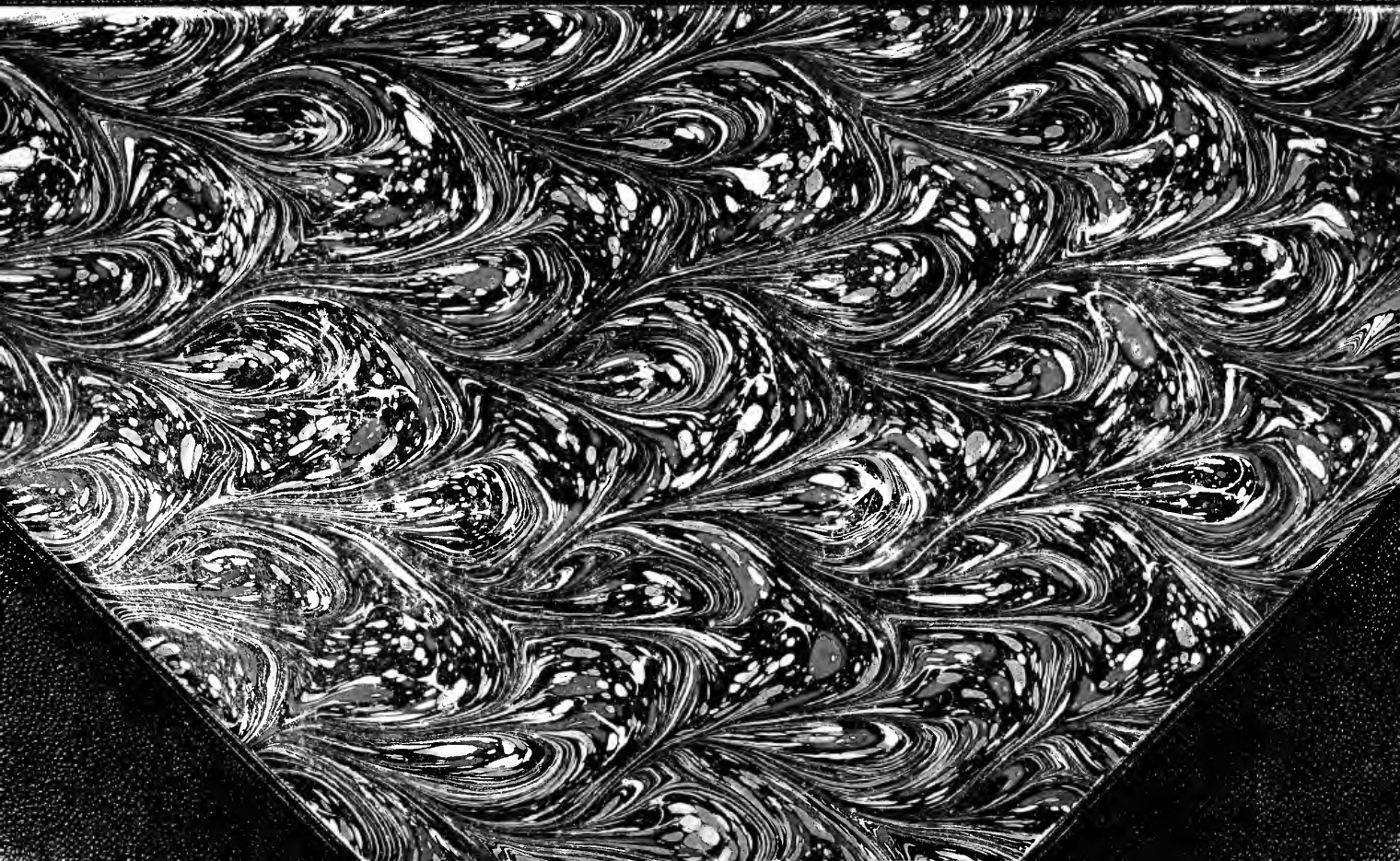

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1860.

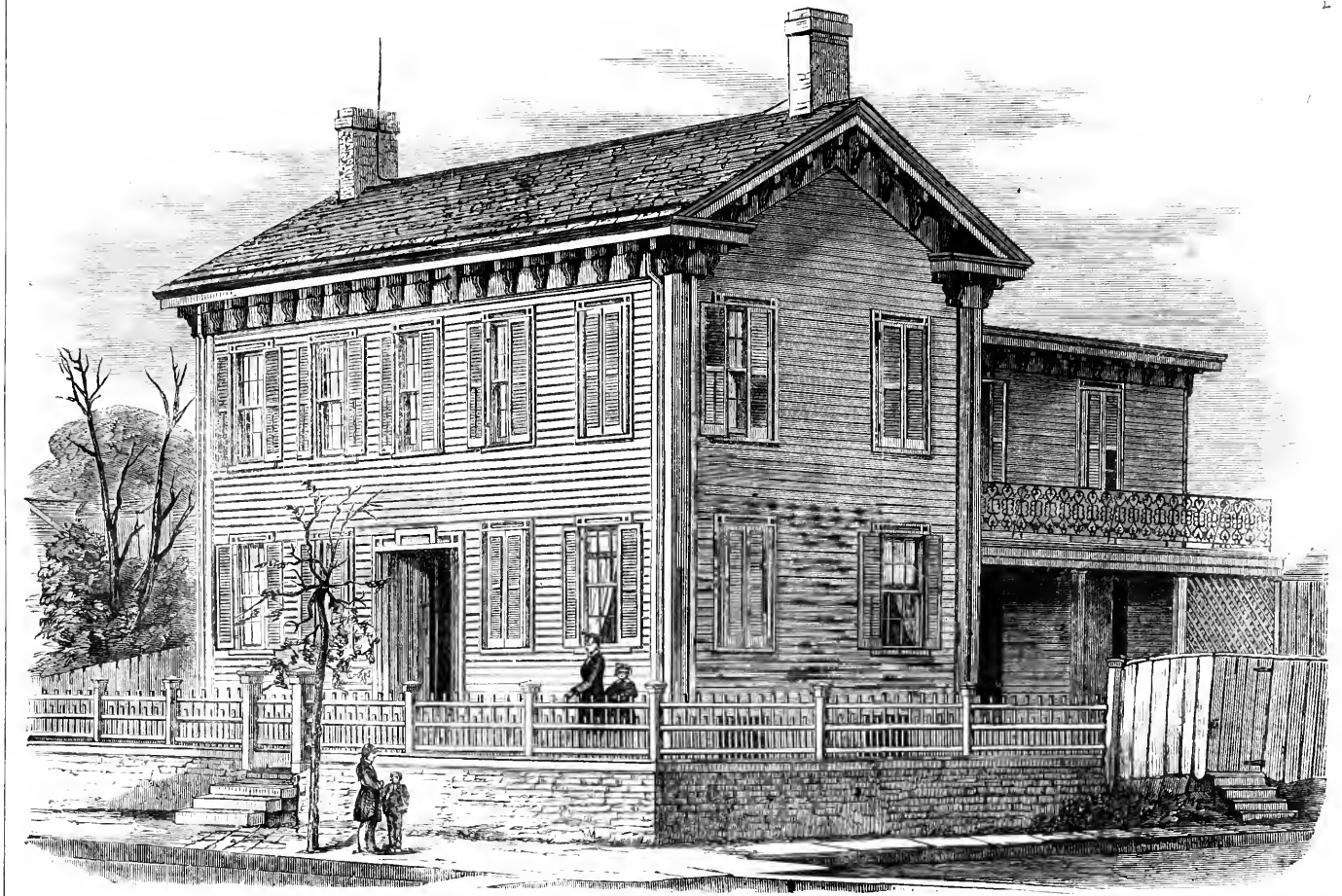
ABRAHAM LINCOLN, OF ILLINOIS, PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE UNITED STATES.—FROM A LITHOGRAPH PUBLISHED BY G. W. NICHOLS, NEW YORK.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, who has just been elected President of the United States, was born in the county of Hardem, in Kentucky, on the 12th of February, 1809. His grandfather, who emigrated from Virginia into that State in 1781, was killed by the Indians whilst he was engaged in clearing his lands. His son, who, like himself, was very poor, also died prematurely, and left a widow and some children, one of them being Abraham, then aged six years. The widow, with her children, after a while, took up her residence in the south of Indiana, and there Abraham in course of time reached man's estate. In stature he is almost gigantic, being six feet three inches. His mother was able to give him but little education—in fact, he passed only six or eight months at school. He was in succession a farm-labourer, a woodcutter, and a boat-man on the Wabash and the Mississippi. In 1830 he went to the State of Illinois, and earned his living for a year by working as a labourer in the fields; and then he got a place as a shopman, and afterwards enlisted as a volunteer in a company which was raised at New Salem to take part in the war in Florida against the Indian tribes headed by the chief called the Black Hawk. He served with credit, and was promoted to the grade of Captain. On his return to Illinois he took up his residence near Springfield, the capital, and has ever since resided there. In 1832 he was a candidate for a seat in the Legislature, but failed. The year after, however, he was elected, and he sat during four Sessions. During this time he studied law, and, having become an advocate, practised with great success at the bar of Springfield. In politics, to which, whilst following his profession, he paid great attention, he joined the Whig party, and was a warm supporter of Henry Clay. In 1846 he was elected to Congress, and continued to belong to it till 1849. He was a strong Abolitionist, and repeatedly expressed his sentiments on the subject of slavery. In the stormy debates which took place on the Wilmot proviso he bore an active part, and voted not fewer than forty-two times for that measure. He opposed the war with Mexico as unconstitutional. From 1849 to 1854 he kept aloof from the political arena, devoting himself exclusively to the exercise of his profession. In 1854 he was the candidate of the Whigs for the dignity of Senator for his State, but was defeated. In 1856 his name was at the head of the list of electors of Illinois, who voted for Fremont, in opposition to Buchanan. In 1858 he was unanimously designated by the Republican Convention of the State to succeed Mr. Douglas as Senator, and a warm contest took place between him and that gentleman. Both visited every part of the State to harangue the populations; Mr. Lincoln boldly declaring for the abolition of slavery, and Mr. Douglas standing by what is called squatter sovereignty. Fortune was then adverse to Mr. Lincoln, his opponent having been elected. The nomination of Abraham Lincoln at the Chicago Convention as the Republican candidate for the Presidency, and his election to that high office, are events too fresh in the recollection of our readers to need any recapitulation.

The personal appearance of Mr Lincoln is thus described in the Chicago *Press and Tribune* :—"Mr. Lincoln stands six feet four inches high in his stockings. His frame is not muscular, but gaunt and wiry; his arms are long, but not unreasonably so for a person of his height; his lower limbs are not disproportionate to his body. In walking, his gait, though firm, is never brisk. He steps slowly and deliberately, almost always with his head inclined forwards, and his hands clasped behind his back. In matters of dress he is by no means precise. Always clean, he is never fashionable; he is careless, but not slovenly. In manner he is remarkably cordial, and at the same time simple. His politeness is always sincere, but never elaborate and oppressive. A warm shake of the hand and a warmer smile of recognition are his methods of greeting his friends. At rest, his features, though those of a man of mark, are not such as belong to a handsome man; but when his fine dark-grey eyes are lighted up by any emotion, and his features begin their play, he would be chosen from among a crowd as one who had in him not only the kindly sentiments which women love, but the heavier metal of which full-grown men and Presidents are made. His hair is black, and, though thin, is wiry. His head sits well on his shoulders, but beyond that it defies description. It nearer resembles that of Clay than Webster, but it is unlike either. It is very large, and, phrenologically, well proportioned, betokening power in all its developments. A slightly Roman nose, a wide-cut mouth, and a large complexion, with the appearance of having been weatherbeaten, complete the description."

A great Republican jubilee was



THE RESIDENCE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. A. WHIPPLE, OF BOSTON, U.S.

held on the 20th ult. at Springfield, Illinois, the home of Mr. Lincoln. It was intended primarily as a congratulatory county meeting, but it unexpectedly assumed vast proportions, and was attended with demonstrations of the greatest significance. The town of Springfield was illuminated in the most brilliant manner, and the most intense enthusiasm was displayed. The Wideawakes formed in procession and proceeded to the house of Mr. Lincoln: he was forced to appear before them and make a short address. The words he spoke were few, but their import, so far as they had a bearing upon the present agitation, was extremely conciliatory. He spoke as follows:—"Friends and Fellow-citizens,—Please excuse me on this occasion from making a speech. I thank you for the kindness and compliment of this call. I thank you in common with all others who have thought fit, by their votes, to indorse the Republican cause (Applause). I rejoice with you in the success which has so far attended that cause (Applause). Yet in all our rejoicings let us neither express nor cherish any harsh feelings towards any citizen who by his vote has differed with us (Loud cheering). Let us at all times remember that all American citizens are brothers of a common country, and should dwell together in the bonds of fraternal feeling (Immense applause). Let me again beg you to accept my thanks and to excuse me from further speaking at this time." Among the other speakers was Senator Trumbull, whose remarks were listened to with great interest, as indicating what will probably be the policy of the incoming Administration:—He said that Mr. Lincoln, although the candidate of the Republican party, as chief magistrate, will neither belong to that nor any other party. When inaugurated he will be the President of the whole country, and will be as ready to defend and protect the State in which he has not received a solitary vote against any encroachment upon its constitutional rights, as the one in which he has received the largest majority. The Republican party are fortunate that they have it now in their power to prove that they have never intended, and do not intend, any encroachment upon the rights of any State or section.

THE PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE UNITED STATES.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, recently elected by the people of the United States of America to the Presidential chair, is a man whose career in life will furnish one of those richly illustrative chapters of history of which nations may well be proud. That he was born in obscurity; that his baptism was one of poverty; that he was early thrown upon his own resources; that he rapidly stepped from one occupation to another, from the merest manual toil to the highest intellectual pursuits, mastering all with incredible ease; that by sheer force of mind, will, and character, unaided by any great military conflict, or by any revolutionary ferment, he fought his way from one of the lowest positions of life to the very highest to which an American can aspire, reflects glory not merely on the man who has achieved this marvellous success, but upon the country whose social and political institutions made it possible. We do not pretend that President Lincoln owes nothing to opportunity; but America may justly boast that when character and opportunity meet she puts no insuperable barrier in the path of any of her citizens to the topmost place of authority and honour.

It is worthy of note that Mr. Lincoln is a type—a rare one, no doubt—of a considerable class of his countrymen. Self-reliant, observant, keen to discover every opening in the pathway of life, prompt to take advantage of it, believing that his qualifications to enter any sphere constitute a patent right to occupy it, full of energy, of indomitable will, patient, industrious, unswervingly persistent—in all these attributes the new President represents the distinctive character of the best class of his fellow-citizens. There are many cast in the same mould, although, undoubtedly, he is *primus inter pares*. "Excelsior" is their motto; to toil upwards is the rule of their life. What they become is held to depend upon what they are and what they can do. They look for their resources chiefly within themselves. They know that they must win position—that it will not be made for them. They may often over-estimate their capabilities, miss their footing, mistake their way; but it is of such men that great nations are made. The career of Abraham Lincoln opens up to us a vein of social worth in which lies imbedded the promise of a grand national destiny.

In the rapidity of his ascent from obscurity to greatness the newly-elected President strikingly resembles the country he is

called to govern. From the Declaration of Independence to the present day the progress of the United States of America has outrun even the wildest anticipations. The handful of people who, less than a century ago, constituted a neglected and oppressed colony of England have germinated into a great nation—a mighty federation of republics. America owes much of her present eminence to the profound sagacity of her early statesmen. Nothing but a wise combination of State autonomies with federal unity, which their genius devised, and which their successors have faithfully developed, could have given free play to such an endless variety of popular characteristics, and, at the same time, welded together into one consistent whole such a multiplicity of different and sometimes conflicting interests. It must be remembered that all the nations of Europe have contributed to swell the population of the United States,—that the States differ widely from each other, not merely in geographical position, climate, and natural productions; but in social structure, industrial interests, and even religious views. To leave to every State its own social and political individuality, and yet to unite the whole in one grand federation, having a common army and navy, a common diplomacy, a common system of customs, a common coinage, and a common Legislature and Executive for federal purposes, was a happy conception, the profound practical wisdom of which has been demonstrated by ample experience.

The one flaw in this arrangement is slavery, a social institution which the statesmen of America did not create, but inherited, and which, they evidently believed, would speedily die out. Unhappily, events have not answered their expectations; and, should a disruption of the Union occur—which, in spite of threatening appearances, we deem unlikely—it will result entirely from the difference of opinion and interests springing out of the existence of this institution.

Upon this difference the late Presidential election almost exclusively turned. Abraham Lincoln is opposed to any recognition of slavery as a normal principle of the Union. He would still leave each State at liberty to deal with it as it may see fit; but he would not have it imposed upon new territories, nor identified in any way with Federal policy. His success as candidate for the Presidential chair has alarmed and enraged the Slave States, which, defeated for the first time by the aggregate public opinion of the country, loudly threaten secession.

Englishmen would deeply regret to witness a result which

appears to most of them so fraught with disaster. Anxious as they may be to see the abolition of slavery, they would grieve, as much for the black as for the white race, to see it effected by a servile war; and to this calamitous issue they believe the disruption of the Union will fatally conduce. To their view slavery is a blunder, social, economical, political, and religious, and they feel convinced that, if it be not violently interfered with, its very evils in all these respects will ultimately work out its most effectual cure. It is because they foresee that slavery, isolated from the Union, cut off from all the ameliorating and restraining influences of the free States, and pushed to the furthest limits which the possibilities of commercial profit will admit, must, at no distant day, lead to a sanguinary collision between the white race and the negroes, which will better the position of neither, but will inflict awful sufferings on both, that Englishmen, for the most part, sincerely and unanimously as they would rejoice over the extinction of slavery, contemplate with a feeling akin to dismay any movement which will break up the Union.

§ But, apart altogether from the question of slavery, which we regard as accidental, exceptional, and temporary, we deprecate the dissolution of the American Federation on the ground of Mr. Lincoln's election, as doing inconceivable damage to those high principles of national policy which we have been accustomed to identify with the progress of mankind. Human beings can only be governed by one of two forces—that of the sword or that of opinion. We had hoped that it was to be the glorious destiny of the New World practically to demonstrate to the Old the vast superiority of the latter method over the former, not only in its nature but in its action and results. But government by opinion necessarily implies the acquiescence of the minority in the expressed will of the majority, at least within the entire range of affairs properly under the cognisance of civil government. Hitherto the Anglo-Saxon family, whether on this or the other side of the Atlantic, have been noted for prompt submission to the public will when once that will has been distinctly and constitutionally ascertained. To this disposition we owe our liberties; and this is the best guarantee we possess for the permanence of our progress. But if every body of men, when fairly defeated, is to hold itself free to refuse acceptance to the

will of the majority, government by opinion is at an end, and we are thrown back again upon the old expedient of despotism—namely, government by the sword. It is putting back the clock of the world. It reverses, so far as it extends, the natural current of civilisation. It is treason against the prerogatives of the race.

We venture to express our confident hope that the Slave States of America, after the storm of passion raised by Abraham Lincoln's election shall have had time to subside, will hesitate to injure their own position, to destroy an ever-expanding and glorious Federation, and to do outrage to the sentiments of the whole civilised world, by refusing to bow to the public opinion of their country. They have been long in the ascendant, and, exacting as their policy has occasionally been, the Free States, certainly not inferior to them in population, in wealth, or in virtue, have invariably submitted to the public decision. It is now the turn of the Slave States to accept the will of the majority. The people of the United States have deliberately chosen to place Mr. Lincoln in the Presidential chair. In so deciding they have but exercised an undoubted political right. They have meddled with nothing beyond their sphere—the new President will meddle with nothing beyond it. With a hostile Senate and House of Representatives—with the constitutional right of every State over its own internal policy and institutions preserved intact, and with the bulwark of laws and legal decisions which Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice have erected round about the "peculiar domestic institution," it is impossible to discern in the election of a Republican President a reasonable ground for the secession of the Slave States from the Union. Such an act, owing to such a cause, will be regarded by the rest of the world as a monstrous exhibition of selfish passion—an exhibition which neither patriotism, conscience, nor even enlightened self-interest can regard as justifiable. But, we believe, no such deplorable triumph will be given to the foes of human progress. The Southern States will recover their loyalty, the Union will still be maintained, and Abraham Lincoln, as President, will afford to all, Slave States as well as Free, the advantages of a dignified, strong, and impartial Federal Government.

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